

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Philadelphia doctor returns from native Romania with child

First in a series

"Communism is not dead." That statement, reported in the Jan. 30, 1992 issue of the *Baptist Record*, was made by Philadelphia resident and retired doctor, Cornel Petrashevich, after seeing his native Romania for the first time in 22 years.

Petrashevich brought back impressions of the hunger and misery which existed — and persist — in his homeland after the 1989 dismantling of the Ceausescu dictatorship.

When asked last year if there were not more freedom, especially to worship, the doctor scoffed: "Freedom! They are free only to bark."

Petrashevich, in that 1992 interview, also issued a plea to Mississippi Baptists: Help the children.

Readers of the *Baptist Record* responded admirably. In particular, the Beta Club at Philadelphia High School took up the banner to offer relief to starving children in the orphanage at Lugoj, Petrashevich's hometown.

By April 2, 1992, 24 boxes of food, clothes, and bedding were on their way to the orphanage, in care of Lucy Platoff, a physician and Petrashevich's sister. Cash gifts from readers, Petrashevich says, helped to buy a central heating system for the orphanage.

Petrashevich has returned to Romania four times in the last two years, most recently in December 1992. Each time, he and his niece Silvia hoped to adopt a child from a Romanian orphanage. Each time, he brought only more reports of people in misery.

At the time of the *Baptist Record*'s contact with Petrashevich in

1992, it was still possible for Americans to adopt children from Romanian orphanages, and many did so.

When the Romanian government put a moratorium on foreign adoptions, Petrashevich said it was because "they realized they have no more children to repopulate the



Cornel Petrashevich, retired Philadelphia gynecologist, helped to bring young Arthur to the United States from a Romanian orphanage last December. Arthur, age 7, is in first grade at Neshoba Central Elementary School.

By Shannon T. Simpson

country. They are a country without children."

Extreme poverty has also forced the country to operate under a liberal policy of abortion. "Many are performed out of misery," Petrashevich says.

What degree of poverty would justify such a policy?

"For three months now, there has been no milk in Bucharest," Petrashevich says. "In the middle of the night, families stand on line to get milk from China. I don't know what kind of a cow it comes from," he laughs, "but it's so bad, they call it 'fear of death' milk."

Petrashevich's persistence paid off, however, when he welcomed a new grand-nephew to the United States. Arthur, age 7, came to Mississippi Dec. 20 from Gavojdia, Romania.

Many previous attempts to bring a child back to the United States were stonewalled by the Romanian government. Finally, an American agency — H.O.L.T. (under the umbrella of the Immigration and Naturalization Service) — helped Petrashevich and Silvia wade through the bureaucracy.

After finding Arthur, they had to wait three months before he could leave the country. Nine times, Arthur's director (the equivalent of our social worker) went to the government, trying to obtain permission for his exit to the States.

During that time, the boy lived with Silvia's former school teacher in Lugoj. She taught him rudimentary reading and writing, physical education, and many other skills American children take for granted.

Arthur was, Petrashevich recalls, living "like a prisoner" in the

orphanage in Gavojdia. "There, I found a kind of zoo — five- to six-year-olds were acting as servants to the older ones, age 18-20. The older boys use the younger ones to lie, steal, and hide food for them."

It took some time for Arthur to stop hiding his own clothes, food, and gifts under his pillow once out of the orphanage.

After a steady diet of cabbage and oil, Arthur even now shuns meat. "He tells his mother he is a little rabbit," laughs Petrashevich. "But he is slowly learning to eat meat, by example."

Now, Arthur is adjusting to life

as a normal little American boy. At Neshoba Central Elementary School, he scores 100s on his tests, and even helps the other first grade children with their spelling despite the fact that his own English is rough.

"People ask me if I adopted Arthur," Petrashevich says. "I tell them, 'No, I saved him.' (Silvia and) I saved him from being lost in the masses of people who live in poverty, and the children who will most likely grow up to be criminals."

Next week, Southern Baptist work in Romania.

Croatia open to gospel

By Sam James

I have just returned from an extended visit in the former country of Yugoslavia where war has raged unabated for more than two years. I was unprepared for the devastation which I encountered in the countries of Croatia and Bosnia. It is estimated that 40% of the villages and towns in Croatia have been destroyed or partially destroyed. Even larger cities show marks of violent war on their buildings and houses. All cattle, beef and dairy cattle, have been slaughtered. All stores of seed corn are exhausted so there is nothing to plant this spring.

Perhaps the most troubling of all is the plight of 30,000 Muslim women who have been violently raped. In the week I was there, 300 babies were born of these rapes. A Muslim woman lawyer, herself living in squalor in a refugee camp, told me that, by Muslim law, the bodies of these women have been defiled. By Muslim law their husbands have the right to kill them. If they do not, their fathers have that right.

Southern Baptists have been carrying on a feeding program for approximately 10,000 refugees in Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, and Slovenia. Plans are being prepared to bring in beef and dairy cattle replacements into secure areas with a breeding program. Forty tons of seed corn is being procured for immediate shipment with more on the way.

Croatia is open to the gospel and the response is overwhelming. We have two missionary units in Serbia and Croatia. Pray for God to call out a number of missionaries while this door is open. Pray for people with agricultural knowledge to assist us with the procurement of needed supplies for long term assistance.

James is vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Urgent need in Yemen

There is an urgent need for permanent and short-term physicians at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen.

Two Southern Baptist physicians have just permanently left Yemen to come back to the States and marry. Both were in their first terms.

With others on furlough, that leaves only one Southern Baptist physician working in Yemen. Southern Baptists hope to keep at least three career physicians at the Jibla Baptist Hospital and use short-term volunteers when needed.

The most immediate need in Yemen is for short-term volunteers who would fill in until new career people are appointed.

Pray today that God will call new Southern Baptists with medical training to work in Yemen. Pray also that those called will be faithful and respond. Also pray that medical volunteers will respond to this urgent need.

Pray that Jibla Baptist Hospital will cope effectively with its loss of staff. The hospital opened in 1967 and treats up to 40,000 people a year, performs some 400 surgeries a month, and provides the Muslim population one of its few contacts with Christians.

Penthouse mag's sales drop

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Penthouse magazine is responding to market realities with toned-down covers. According to Folio's Publishing News, the move to celebrity covers is an effort to combat retailer resistance to sexually explicit material. "Since we've gone to celebrity covers, we're in 1,000 new outlets, and 6,600 stores have dropped their blinder boards," said Penthouse circulation director, James Martise. The efforts of anti-pornography crusaders have hurt Penthouse. Six years ago publisher Bob Guccione predicted that his company would hit \$1 billion in sales by 1992, but revenues have peaked at \$175 million. Newsstand sales have dropped from about four million to 1.25 million, and in 1991 the company laid off 120 of about 620 staffers. Guccione blames the porn-bashing efforts of the Reagan administration, in part, for his company's difficulties, and hopes that things will improve under Bill Clinton. "With the new Administration, we're hopeful this will change and we'll resume our expansion of circulation and revenues," he said.

World briefs...

Jerusalem

Want to talk to God? Send Him a FAX. The Israeli national telephone company, Bezek, will publicize a Jerusalem number for believers who want to send their prayers to God by FAX. A Bezek employee will take the FAX and stuff it into a crevice in the Western Wall, also known as the "Wailing Wall." One Jewish tradition holds that prayers stuffed between the stone blocks of the wall are likely to be answered favorably.

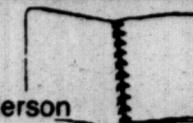
San Diego

A San Diego jury has ruled in favor of urologist Howard Lowe, who stopped treating a homosexual patient for impotence after learning that the patient had AIDS. Lowe said he feared he could be contributing to the spread of AIDS. Patient Michael Petty sued Lowe under a city "gay rights" ordinance that bans discrimination against homosexuals.

Thursday, February 18, 1993

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



The WMU in the lion's den

Tense, emotional, high drama, and shell-shocked are just some of the terms describing the Foreign Mission Board trustees' recent meeting with the Woman's Missionary Union. Frustration is the term to describe the results.

After the meeting, Dellanna O'Brien spoke of being treated with suspicion in an unfriendly atmosphere. Trustee after trustee rose to ask explanation of the WMU for supporting a group (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) not sanctioned by the SBC, changing its focus without consulting with the grassroots Baptists, and having disdain for the conservative stance of the SBC.

O'Brien, WMU executive director, answered all questions but hardly to the satisfaction of the trustees. The "WMU is not abandoning its traditional support of SBC causes," she declared.

One trustee stated that the FMB and the CBF "can't walk together" because of their differences; therefore, it seems, neither can the WMU walk in harmony with both

the CBF and the FMB.

Considering the autonomy of Baptist organizations, I find it a bit strange for one agency to instruct an auxiliary on what it can and cannot do.

Another trustee said the whole thing appears as part of a plot by moderates to pull the WMU out of the SBC. Pray tell, do we have any organization more Southern Baptist than the WMU?

Surely the WMU and the FMB will find a way to work together. The SBC needs both organizations. The illustrious history and rich tradition of the FMB and WMU have paid huge dividends in world missions. It would take years to duplicate either organization.

If this current trend continues, 3,800-plus missionaries will be greatly disturbed and a great mission program will be possibly interrupted.

Ease up, trustees. Let the WMU reach out to other ministries. It will not hurt the Lottie Moon offering; certainly all our mission-

aries would appreciate the prayer support.

Ease up, WMU. The CBF is able to support its own mission work. Let brotherly love continue. All will agree that our mission program is more valuable than fragile egos.

Bear in mind the WMU's decision was to provide prayer support and resources for additional Southern Baptist mission groups. This was presumed by some to mean only the CBF. The WMU has not endorsed the CBF. Must we now begin to instruct the WMU for whom they should pray? Will it be wrong to sell resources to CBF and others since the Sunday School Board has been doing that for years?

Meanwhile, the WMU can cheer up! Morris Chapman and the officers of the SBC want to talk with you. Hopefully the lion's den will be a bit more friendly. This meeting will take place Sunday night, Feb. 21, just prior to the Executive Committee's winter meeting in Nashville.

"FOR THE NEW SATELLITE DOWN-LINK ALLOWING US TO PROJECT TO THE NATION OUR BALANCED PORTFOLIO OF MINISTRIES, WE PRAISE THEE."

**JOE
MCKEEHAN**



Still a bargain

The Southern Baptist Educator, January 1993 issue, carried a list of tuition cost of Baptist colleges and universities. Mississippi's three Baptist schools are looking great... at least if you have to pay the tuition.

Blue Mountain College's tuition is listed at \$3,556, Mississippi College's is \$5,316, and William Carey College, an even \$4,000. To some, this may be terrible expensive but if you compare it with other schools, it's a bit more palatable.

The neighboring states of Alabama list Samford University at \$7,064, Louisiana College at \$4,870, Carson-Newman in Tennessee at \$7,140, and Arkansas's Ouachita University is \$5,800.

Other nearby schools are:

Mobile College, \$5,090; Stetson University in Florida, \$11,110; Mercer University in Georgia,

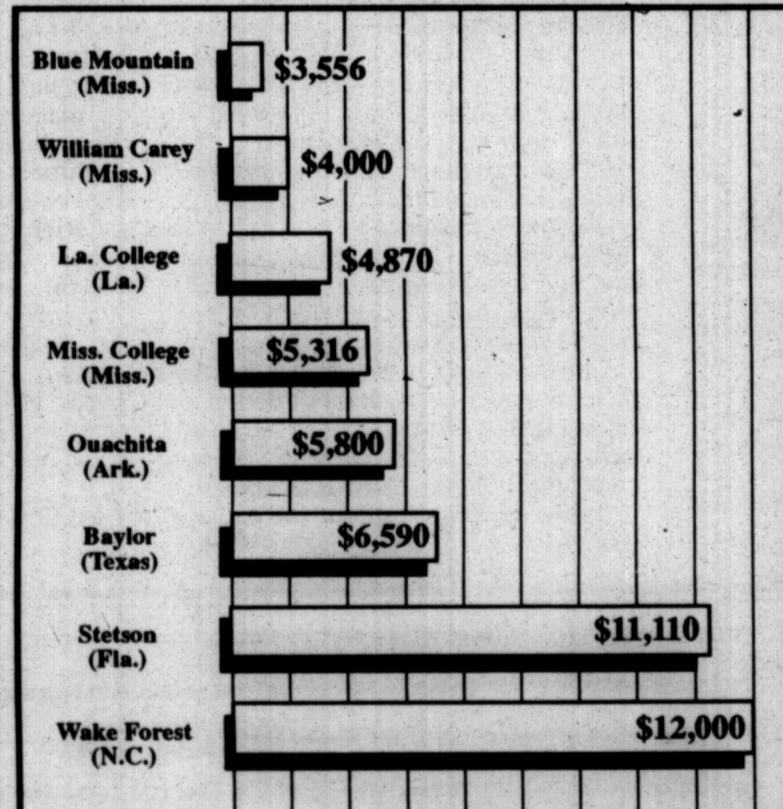
Texas, \$6,590; and Oklahoma Baptist University, \$5,386. (This information was furnished by the College Boards Scholarship Services.)

Nearly all the colleges reflected a tuition increase over the previous year. Tuitions at Grand Canyon in Arizona (\$6,330), Clear Creek in Kentucky (\$2,000), North Greenville in South Carolina (\$5,900), and William Carey in Hattiesburg (\$4,000) remained the same as the previous year. Administrators are trying hard to give quality education at an affordable price.

February 21 is Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day on the denominational calendar. Acquaint your children with our Mis-

sissippi Baptist colleges. You will feel better and someday your children will rise up and call you blessed.

—GH



Source: College Board Scholarship Service

\$10,287; Georgetown in Kentucky, \$6,810; William Jewell in Missouri, \$8,970; Wake Forest in North Carolina, \$12,000; Baylor in

Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day... Faith fosters growth

By Arthur L. Walker

which emphasized both intellectual and spiritual pursuits.

In Baptist history, William Carey placed his greatest emphasis on organizing schools, teaching, and the translation of the Bible into the language of those he sought to win to Christ. He saw intellectual pursuits as a way to win persons to faith in Christ.

Southern Baptist educational institutions are committed to this dual growth. As the professors and staff members in these schools encourage intellectual growth, they also encourage the students to become believers and to develop spiritually.

Spiritual development results as both faculty and students integrate their personal faith with their professional and intellectual development. Concern for spiritual development is the value-added element in church-related education.

The close tie between faith and learning has long been evident in Christian experience. Early Christian teachers saw the need for Christian schools where this two-fold emphasis could be made. Throughout the history of Christianity a major force has been the development of schools

which emphasized both intellectual and spiritual pursuits. In Baptist history, William Carey placed his greatest emphasis on organizing schools, teaching, and the translation of the Bible into the language of those he sought to win to Christ. He saw intellectual pursuits as a way to win persons to faith in Christ.

The earliest Southern Baptist state conventions each organized schools to foster intellectual growth and to provide religious leaders for a new generation. This led to the development of Southern Baptist theological education.

Southern Baptist higher education has stressed that the dual emphasis on intellectual and spiritual growth is a significant way to fulfill God's calling in one's life. Many see higher education as a way to heed the admonition of Peter to "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Walker is executive director-treasurer, Education Commission, SBC.

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FMB chairman says remarks misquoted

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board's trustee chairman said Feb. 8 he was misquoted when he reportedly compared changes in Woman's Missionary Union policy to adultery.

John Jackson reportedly told the Chattanooga News-Free Press Jan. 10 that WMU aid to both the Foreign Mission Board and the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship would be like a wife telling her husband:

"I have another man that I want to be married to as well. I know that we've had such a good working relationship, but I know that you won't mind if I bring him into our bed."

Later that day, Jackson learned the WMU executive board had announced a plan to expand WMU's base and activities. Part of the plan calls for cooperating with Southern Baptist mission groups other than the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, presumably including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. But the WMU board did not vote to raise funds for the fellowship or promote its offering.

Contacted Jan. 26 by Associated Baptist Press about the adultery analogy, Jackson was reported to have said he stood by it if "what appears to be so is so... (If) they start dating someone else while they are married, then something has changed."

But during a Feb. 8 dialogue between WMU leaders and Foreign Mission Board trustees in Richmond, Jackson said he was asked in Chattanooga "what I thought under a hypothetical situation" before WMU voted its policy changes, "and I made a response to that based on a hypothetical position."

"But the recent statement that has come out does not reflect my views," he stated Feb. 8. "I was asked (by ABP) if I said it, and I

Baptist college enrollment up for 11th straight year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the 11th consecutive year, according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

A compilation of the figures shows that 36 of the 53 colleges and universities had an increase in enrollment ranging from 23.3% to 0.1%.

North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C., had the largest percentage increase with 23.3% followed by Missouri Baptist College, St. Louis, 22.8%; William Carey College, Hattiesburg, 21.5%; Mobile (Ala.) College, 19.7%; East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas, 18.6%; Truett-McConnell College, Cleveland, Ga., 14.8%; and Wayland Baptist

did say it. But I said it prior to the (WMU) meeting in regard to a hypothetical question if certain things happen. Those things did not happen."

Greg Warner, ABP's executive editor and author of the disputed news story, told Baptist Press he reported the incident accurately.

"A lot of people would like to think (Jackson) was misquoted, but it's not true," Warner said.

"He was given a chance to disown the quote as it was originally reported Jan. 10 (by the Chattanooga News-Free Press) and did not do that," Warner said. "The second interview took place well after he became aware of WMU's actions. They were no longer hypothetical. But at that point he did not disown his original analogy. In fact he expounded on it. So I have to assume it still represented his view. I'll leave it to him to further explain it."

Told of Warner's response, Jackson insisted Associated Baptist Press, like the Chattanooga newspaper, had asked him about a specific hypothetical case: possible future fund-raising by WMU for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"I was asked, 'Would you stand by (the original statement) if they (WMU) decided to raise funds for CBF?'" Jackson recalled. He said he agreed he would if WMU makes such a decision. "But they didn't do that."

Jackson said he thinks Associated Baptist Press owes him an apology.

"They made me look like I was having a feud with WMU," he said. "You try to make peace and they make you look like a warmer. I got a lot of angry letters from WMU ladies who thought I was calling them adulteresses. I wasn't."

Bridges is news editor, News and Information Office, FMB.

University, Plainview, Texas, 12.4%.

Baylor University showed the largest numerical increase from fall 1991 to fall 1992, with 375 additional students followed by William Carey College, 360; Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, 296; Mobile College, 278; Missouri Baptist College, 267; Truett-McConnell College, 242; and East Texas Baptist University, 189.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981, when enrollment was 91,602, a drop of less than 1% over the previous year.

Mississippi — Blue Mountain College, 396, up 3.9%; Mississippi College, 3,635, down 3.6%; William Carey College, 2,032, up 21.5%.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Ex. Committee to ask WMU to explain new mission effort

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — Leaders of Woman's Missionary Union have been asked to meet with top Southern Baptist Convention officials Feb. 21 to explain why the organization is supporting the mission efforts of groups not sanctioned by the SBC.

In a letter to Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, SBC chief executive Morris Chapman asked O'Brien and national WMU president Carolyn Miller to meet with the officers of the SBC Executive Committee.

At issue is the Jan. 10 vote by WMU leaders to expand the scope of the women's auxiliary. WMU

will now support the missions programs of other Southern Baptist groups — including the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship — and forge relationships with evangelical missions organizations outside the SBC.

Last year, SBC leaders warned that if WMU endorsed the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Executive Committee might form its own women's agency controlled by SBC-appointed trustees. The 105-year-old WMU is governed by an independent board elected from the 30-plus state and regional Baptist conventions.

Trustees of the Foreign Mission

Board held their own meeting with O'Brien Feb. 8 in which they registered their complaints about the new plan.

Chapman, who attended the Feb. 8 session, told FMB trustees a similar meeting had been scheduled with leaders of the Executive Committee, which Chapman serves as president.

The meeting will be held in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday night, Feb. 21, one day before the Executive Committee begins its three-day winter meeting. It is unclear if the session will be open to the press and public. Most meetings of SBC officers are not.

FMB initiates European changes, sends WMU tape to missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Foreign Mission Board trustees projected a new direction for mission work in Europe, debated how to communicate a dialogue with Woman's Missionary Union to missionaries overseas, and shelved a proposal to study whether the mission board should move.

Meeting Feb. 8-10 in Richmond, they also heard reports of increased evangelism and church growth overseas — even in remote Mongolia — and appointed 27 missionaries and reappointed one.

John Floyd, a former missionary and current vice president at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., was elected unanimously to become



area director for Europe, effective March 1. He succeeds Keith Parker, who took early retirement last year in protest of board actions.

But in the same session, trustees voted to realign mission work in European countries into two administrative areas — Western Europe and Eastern Europe. Floyd will administer the whole area until the realignment takes place and another area director is elected to lead one of the areas.

Sam James, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, warned trustees that not all European Baptists and missionaries will like the new alignment. Many fear that "dividing" Europe will create problems in an area finally free from division by the Iron Curtain.

The Feb. 8 dialogue with Woman's Missionary Union leaders continued to be the focus of intense discussion at the trustees'

plenary session two days later.

Trustees approved a motion from their communications committee to send a videotape of the entire two-hour session to the approximately 125 regional organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries overseas so the missionaries could judge the dialogue for themselves. They also will send a transcript of it to each missionary.

Angered over the tone and content of a Richmond Times-Dispatch article, trustees approved a motion by trustee Bob Clements of Texas that the Richmond daily newspaper "send us a responsible reporter to cover our meetings."

They also approved an amendment to the videotape motion, proposed by trustee Paul Pressler of Texas, that it also be sent to the editor of the Times-Dispatch so he could evaluate the fairness of the coverage.

The article characterized the dialogue as "angry" and said trustees had "summoned" WMU officers to explain themselves.

Trustees also voted to affirm their "full and unwavering support" of the committee searching for a successor to former president R. Keith Parks, and they referred for study a motion that would require a 75% majority vote to elect FMB staff subject to trustee approval.

The committee has spent nine months looking for a successor to Parks, and was recently turned down by Oklahoma Pastor Tom Elliff.

Search committee chairman Joel Gregory of Texas denied at that time a rumor the 15-member committee might resign.

Names surface in search for Southern president

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — The next president of Southern Seminary should be elected April 19 and likely will be either Richard Land, Timothy George, Al Mohler, or Bob Agee, according to seminary sources.

George, dean of Samford University's divinity school in Birmingham, Ala., previously taught at the seminary.

Mohler, editor of The Christian Index, the newsjournal for Southern Baptists in Georgia, formerly was a special assistant to seminary president Roy Honeycutt, who has announced his retirement.

Land is presently serving as executive director of the Christian Life Commission, the ethics and public-policy agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Agee is president of Oklahoma Baptist University.

Analysis...

WMU, FMB collide over work with other groups

By Erich Bridges

Leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union and Foreign Mission Board — sister agencies for more than a century — strongly disagreed Feb. 8 over recent changes in WMU policy.

During a tense two-hour session, board trustees questioned WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, WMU President Carolyn Miller, Associate Executive Director June Whitlow and Ellen Teague, WMU leader and president of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. The questions focused on the WMU executive board's January vote to assist mission groups other than the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards.

A clear division of opinion quickly emerged.

WMU leaders believe they are responding to a changing society and a changing Southern Baptist scene, where churches and individuals are exploring a variety of choices in mission participation.

They said they have no intention of backing down on what they have done in the past — supporting Southern Baptist missions and helping raise millions of dollars annually for the two denominational mission boards. But they said, at the same time, they want to help all Southern Baptists do missions.

Foreign Mission Board trustees, in contrast, feel the WMU is abandoning the long-cherished unity of Southern Baptist Convention-sponsored mission efforts to aid splinter groups like the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In January the WMU executive board considered changes proposed from an ad hoc committee named last year. The board adopted a plan to expand WMU's base

"WMU and related missions needs."

Much of the FMB trustees' concern focused on the WMU's decision to provide prayer support and resources for additional Southern Baptist mission groups — presumably including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The fellowship is not specifically mentioned in WMU's approved recommendations.

That move, said trustee Bill Blanchard, a Tennessee pastor, is "a radical departure from our past cooperative efforts" in supporting only "Southern Baptist Convention-sanctioned" mission work.

Blanchard repeatedly asked if WMU's study committee had attempted to poll or inform local WMU leaders about the "sweeping decisions" it was contemplating and if the decisions really represented grass-roots opinion.

WMU is by nature a grass-roots organization, O'Brien responded. Its executive board is made up of state WMU leaders who come to meetings with the "freshness of the local church." Advance surveys, letters and requests for prayer also were distributed widely, the WMU leaders said, and listening sessions were held at the Jericho missions festivals.

"It's hard to say" how closely the final decisions mirror every local WMU, O'Brien acknowledged as Blanchard pressed the question. "But (the new policy) is different only in that our denomination is different."

The Southern Baptist Convention once rallied around the Home and Foreign Mission Boards alone, she explained. But many churches now send their own missionaries and volunteers across the nation and the world, and numerous groups within the denomination sponsor mission prayer efforts and projects.

"We didn't cause it; we are only recognizing it's there," O'Brien said. WMU wants to broaden its base in hopes "people who choose to do missions a little differently" will stay involved.

Trustee Don Purvis, a South Carolina pastor, said he was partly a product of WMU, which sent him to Royal Ambassador camp as a boy, and he had nurtured a good relationship with the women's organization for 30 years as a pastor.

"But I'm concerned," Purvis said, "about (WMU) relationships with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," an organization Purvis believes draws support away from the Southern Baptist Convention. "It's the same concern I had for 25 years when my friends to the far right took their churches out of the convention."

WMU spoke against those earlier efforts to divide, he said. "Give me some assurance WMU is not going to be supplying something

that will be pulling churches away from the Southern Baptist Convention and Foreign Mission Board."

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, O'Brien replied, was never discussed by the ad hoc committee. "We were looking at far broader issues than that," she said.

Ladies, I love you, but I'm afraid of your words."

Several other trustees echoed her anxiety, despite assurances from the WMU leaders that support for SBC missions would not change.

The anxiety was crystallized by Missouri trustee Mike Goodwin,



WMU LEADERS DIALOGUE WITH FMB — Dellanna O'Brien (left), Woman's Missionary Union executive director, answered questions during a tense two-hour session Feb. 8 with Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees. The WMU leaders and board trustees strongly disagreed Feb. 8 over recent changes in WMU policy which opened the door for WMU assistance to Southern Baptist mission groups other than the two denominational mission boards. O'Brien is flanked by WMU President Carolyn Miller (right). Ellen Teague, WMU leader and president of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, and WMU Associate Executive Director June Whitlow also participated in the dialogue. (BP photo by Sandy King)

The fellowship is "only one of a number of organizations that might come to us."

Asked for her personal assurance of commitment to Southern Baptist Convention programs, O'Brien said when she was elected to lead WMU she was told "I no longer have a personal opinion. When I speak, I speak for WMU.... But as a (former) missionary of this Foreign Mission Board, I have a deep commitment to it."

O'Brien was a missionary to Indonesia for 12 years with her husband, Bill, the board's former executive vice president.

Phyllis Malcom, trustee from Georgia, asked with emotion what she would teach her young Girls in Action mission group if WMU changes. If WMU no longer supports SBC causes only, they won't know "what their roots are," Malcom said.

God showed me we don't need to be concerned about the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," she continued. "We need to be concerned about the words coming down from you....

Mission Board."

Randall said she felt that statement "used to be valid but is no longer. A Scripture that I learned in GAs said we can't serve two masters, that we'll love one and hate the other."

Alma Hunt, sitting near the back of the board chapel, arose to respond.

"When I wrote that, I believed it with all my heart," Hunt said. "Today is a different day. But I do not believe that God intends for us not to be able to walk together. I think under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Christian people the world around can walk together."

"I've had some of the richest experiences of my life with Christians who are not Baptist but who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," Hunt said. "I pray the day will never come that we as Southern Baptists will say we cannot walk with another Baptist or another person who believes in Jesus Christ." A number in the room applauded.

After the dialogue, the WMU leaders appeared a bit shell-shocked by the tense atmosphere.

"I was surprised that there were so many negative perceptions," O'Brien said. "There didn't seem to be a tendency toward trying to understand where we were. I don't think we got a good hearing. The questions seemed more designed to express frustration than elicit information."

"I think it was significant that there was not a kind word for WMU" after a century of WMU support for the Foreign Mission Board, O'Brien said. "Rather, we were treated with suspicion. I think it would be safe to say it was unfriendly."

Where do the two agencies go from here? "It's up to (the Foreign Mission Board trustees)," O'Brien answered. "We're committed to do what we've done in the past. And we're hopeful they'll want to continue the partnership" and, after frustration subsides, "give us a chance to show we have no intention of backing down on what we've done in the past."

O'Brien acknowledged the timing of WMU's policy changes — soon after the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship promoted its first mission offering and signed on former FMB President R. Keith Parks to lead its mission arm — make the woman's agency vulnerable to criticism.

But to have delayed "would have put us farther behind in responding" to changes in Southern Baptist life, O'Brien reiterated. "The time is gone when we can expect women to come just because we have a program in the church."

Bridges is news editor, News and Information Office, FMB.

"I pray the day will never come that we as Southern Baptists... cannot walk with another Baptist or another person who believes in Jesus Christ." — Alma Hunt

and activities by cooperating with Southern Baptist mission groups other than the Home and Foreign Mission Boards — and perhaps with some other evangelical mission groups.

Such aid would come in the form of literature, prayer, and other resources, not in helping raise offerings for missions, according to WMU leaders.

WMU also voted in January to become more involved in promoting mission volunteerism, to renew a tradition of speaking and acting on social issues, and to accept financial contributions for

Draper cites concerns, actions in 'state of the board' address

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — A short-term future "ripe with opportunities and challenge" will lead the Baptist Sunday School Board to a long-term future of greater business and ministry effectiveness than ever before, President James T. Draper Jr. told the agency's trustees Feb. 8.

In a "State of the Sunday School Board" report, Draper said while he is "extremely optimistic about where we're headed," administration concerns need trustee understanding, support, and assistance to reach "the potential that is ours for touching lives with the gospel into the 21st century."

The nine concerns he listed are:

— flat to declining sales. After factoring out price increases, the board's total revenue has experienced real growth in only four of the past 10 years, with growth periods attributed to single products such as *The Baptist Hymnal*, published in 1991.

— declining dated church literature unit sales. From 1982-83 to 1990-91, unit sales of dated church literature products declined 8% or almost 4.4 million units.

— profitability. Only four of the board's 17 programs — Sunday School, church music, church administration, and family ministry — have generated a net contribution in each of the last three years.

— a poor track record for new business ventures. The board must step up efforts in new ventures within the context of what it does best, accompanied by sound business planning.

— contribution of products. Seven percent of board products provide 94% of product financial contribution. In 1990-91, 5,679 products were produced under six sales classifications. Approximately 1,900 products generated no net financial contribution.

— the image of the board among customers. Research in a recent image study showed frustration

Only four of the board's 17 programs — Sunday School, church music, church adm., and family ministries, have generated a net contribution in each of the last three years.

with the board on the part of some customers. Among comments from respondents was the observation that the board is a tremendous resource for Southern Baptists that will have less influence in the future if it does not change.

— products which sell well but don't generate income. Three products which have sold well but have not yet contributed financially to the board are the Holman Bible Dictionary, Anita Bryant's A New Day, and The New American Commentary.

— consistent mechanisms to secure, organize, and evaluate feedback.

"While we have done many things well, there also are areas where improvement is needed," Draper told trustees. "Already we are taking steps to address these and other concerns."

Among those he cited are 1) development of a corporate vision statement, core values, operating principles and business and financial objectives; 2) a move from heavy emphasis on operational and budget planning to beginning with strategic planning and business planning; 3) development of a business planning process; 4) restructuring the financial analysis task force to identify problem areas, 5) placing priority attention on the image of the board among customers; 6) adoption of a leadership profile to identify potential leaders and invest in equipping them for greater responsibility; and 7) monitoring resources and their use.

As of Jan. 31, the number of regular, full-time employees was 1,683, compared to 1,767 on Aug. 15, 1991, when Draper became president, for a net reduction of 84.

Draper said other actions being taken to deal with concerns include: reducing the number of policies and procedures to simplify work; restructuring of the retail division; planning for better products; emphasizing a team approach to church growth; listening to customer feedback; and cooperating, inside the board, with other agencies and with other Christian groups.

Willis writes for BSSB.

Thursday, February 18, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Bethel, Monticello, cuts ribbon

Dedication service and ribbon cutting for a new educational building were held at Bethel Church, Monticello (Lawrence Association), Jan. 24 during the morning worship. Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony, left to right, were: Peggy Sumrall, building committee; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; David Oliver, building committee chairman; Archie Herrin, special guest; Charlotte Johnson, building committee; Paul Smith, pastor; and Mike Wilson, building committee member. Building committee member Kathy Hudson was unable to attend; committee members Dick Reeves and Tessie Summers (not pictured) also participated in the ceremony.

Brotherhood, BWA set for May international training in Nashville

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Brotherhood Commission and the Baptist World Alliance men's department are teaming for international Baptist Men's and Baptist Young Men's training May 27-30 at the Baptist World Center in Nashville.

"We've designed the meetings to be mutually beneficial to both BWA and the SBC while offering participants the maximum amount of training," said W.J. Isbell Jr., BWA Men's Department director.

Featured BWA speakers will include:

— E.V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

— Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary.

— Theodore J. Jemison, president National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

— J. Rea Grant, secretary, Baptist Union of Ireland.

— Jack Stanton, an evangelist from Bolivar, Mo., who directs lay evangelism for the BWA men's department.

— Jerry Clower, Christian comedian and Baptist layman from Yazoo City, Miss.

For more information or to register for Baptist Men's University write: Baptist Men's University,

1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104. For more information or to register for the Sixth World Conference of Baptist Men write: BWA Men's Department, Conference Registration, 2300 Quail Dr., SE, Bessemer, AL 35023.

Stewardship Comm. cuts staff, salaries

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Stewardship Commission will reduce its professional staff by three positions and cut salaries of other professional staff by 5%, A.R. Fagan, commission president, announced Feb. 10.

Fagan, in a news release, noted the commission also cut two positions last year after retirements. The reductions will leave it with 11 professional staff members, compared to 16 at the outset of 1992.

"Economic conditions the last few years have led us to believe that we should take the lead in downsizing our organization as a matter of good stewardship," Fagan said in the news release.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Jan. 7 issue of the *Baptist Record*: Gulf Coast: Kittiwake; Jones: Fellowship; Lebanon: Trinity; Neshoba: Fellowship; and Prentiss: Calvary.

Outdated information corrected on homosexual rights legislation

By Paul Griffin Jones II

H.R. 423 and H.R. 431.

H.R. 423 was introduced by Rep. Edolphos Towns of N.Y., and would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. This bill has been referred to three committees in Congress—Judiciary, Education, and Labor—and no hearings have yet been scheduled.

H.R. 431 was introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman of Calif. and would prohibit discrimination in employment, education, credit, housing, the sale of goods and services, use of public facilities, or any federally assisted program because of sexual orientation. This bill was referred to the same committee.

Neither of these bills contain wording that exempts churches and other religious bodies. However, religious leaders who met with President Clinton on January 14 indicated that he affirmed his position that such anti-discrimination laws should not apply to

churches and religious organizations. In past sessions of Congress, similar bills have been dead from introduction and no hearings or actions were taken.

Any attempt to impose such regulations on churches and religious bodies would appear to be a violation of the "free exercise" clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The rights of a free church to operate without undue encumbrances from government demand careful analysis of, and action on, these bills.

Leaders in Congress need to be informed of the concerns citizens have regarding H.R. 423 and H.R. 431. They do not need to receive petitions and calls about bills that died and are not a concern. The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission will provide updates and suggested actions on these and other bills introduced in the 103rd Congress.

Jones is executive director, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Miss. colleges set deadlines for assistance applications

Planning on attending college this coming fall, but haven't made application for financial aid?

"You had better not wait much longer as the deadline is fast approaching," advises Tom Prather, director of financial aid at Mississippi College.

Mississippi College

"The priority deadline to have financial aid applications in is April 1, so we would urge all those who intend on applying for such aid to begin their paperwork process now," Prather admonished.

Students hoping to secure scholarships for the fall really need to hustle, he noted. The scholarship awarding process is underway and early applicants generally receive the better scholarships, he said.

Prather reports that approximately 70% of the students attending MC receive some type of financial assistance, including scholarships, grants, loans, or the college's work program.

All scholarships have certain criteria and guidelines which must be met before they are awarded, he noted. Scholarships awarded by MC are made from institutional funds, endowed or memorial funds, and outside funds.

Grants, loans and college work are awarded based on need and eligibility, Prather explained. These programs

require specific forms to be completed and analyzed. Once the financial aid office receives the processed information, awards are determined by the availability of funds. The awarding process begins in mid-April, with the application deadline set for April 1.

Mississippi College is committed to working closely with students and families in order to put together a package of financial assistance, Prather said. "We pride ourselves on personal attention to each applicant and their family situation. We want to meet the need in each individual case as much as possible."

Prospective students needing additional information or wishing to obtain financial aid forms,

should write: Office of Financial Aid, P.O. Box 4066, Clinton, MS 39058; phone (601) 925-3212 or (800) 738-1346.

Blue Mountain College

Students planning to attend Blue Mountain College in the fall have until March 15 to apply for financial aid, according to Jill Lindsey, director of financial aid for BMC. Only students who have been accepted by BMC for the fall semester are eligible to apply, she said.

Students submitting applications for loans and grants must first file a free application for Federal Student Aid. Applicants then file an additional application with the BMC Financial Aid Office. Applications are ranked in order of need.

Along with grants and loans, a variety of scholarships are also available to incoming students,

request to the appropriate office in care of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, MS 38610; phone (601) 685-4771.

William Carey College

Students pursuing church-related vocations, dependents of denominational workers, and members of Mississippi Southern Baptist churches have numerous scholarship opportunities at William Carey College, according to Tom Scarbrough, WCC vice president for student services.

"William Carey College has committed scholarship dollars to ensure that our Baptist constituency, whose churches support us, will be able to afford Christian education," said Scarbrough.

Scholarships available to students pursuing church-related vocations include the William

Carey Baptist Association CRV Scholarship, the William Carey Church Music Scholarship, and the William Carey CRV Scholarship. The awards range from \$200 to \$600 each year.

Dependents of denominational workers may apply for the William Carey CRV Dependent Scholarship, which awards \$300 each year to qualifying students. Denominational workers include pastors and other church staff members, missionaries, and full-time employees of Baptist associations and Mississippi or Southern Bap-

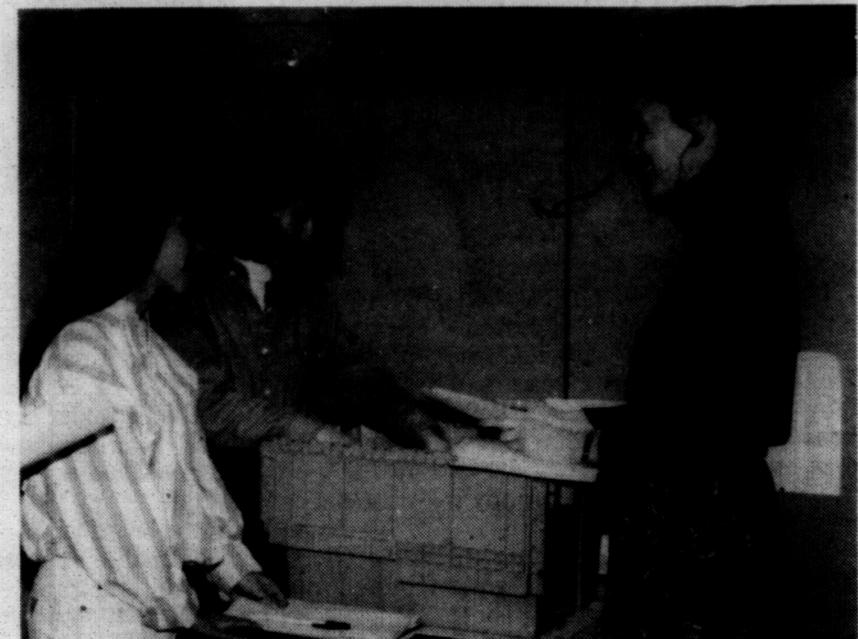
tist agencies.

Scholarships available to students who are active members of Mississippi Baptist churches include the William Carey Baptist Student Scholarship and the William Carey Baptist Association Student Scholarship. These awards range from \$100 to \$300 per year for eligible students.

WCC also awards the William Carey College Alumni Dependent Scholarship each year. This award totals \$300.

In addition to scholarships, grants and loans also are available to WCC students, Scarbrough said.

Individuals wanting additional information on WCC financial aid opportunities may call (601) 582-5051 or (800) 962-5991.



WCC hopes for banner year

William Carey College officials look over student applications as the deadline nears for financial assistance. Assistant Director of Marketing Jewel Buckley and Admissions Counselor Bobbi Ezell scan the paperwork, along with student worker Erika Babineaux. Feb. 21 is Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day on the SBC denominational calendar.

Home missionary training now required to intensify

ATLANTA (BP) — All home missionaries will receive more comprehensive soul-winning training under a new guideline reviewed and supported by the Home Mission Board's missionary personnel committee.

The committee reviewed the issue Feb. 9 during HMB executive committee meetings. The executive committee appointed 14 new home missionaries, heard HMB President Larry Lewis clarify his position on recent actions by the WMU, and received a year-end financial report.

MBMC allied health school picks students

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is currently in the process of selecting new students for its allied health schools. Classes in medical and radiological technology begin in July. Individuals interested in either program should contact MBMC now.

During the past 20 years, 92% of MBMC's medical technology students have passed the national certification examinations required for employment. The national pass rate is 80%. During the past 11 years, 97% of radiography students have passed their national certification examinations.

Students who reach the medical technologist level are required to have a baccalaureate degree. Radiologic technologist applicants must be 18 years old and have a high school education or the equivalent. In addition, the person should have a strong math background and an ACT score of 18 or above.

For more information on either program, contact Kathy Bearden at MBMC, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202; phone (601) 968-5144.

Lewis explained that all approved missionaries are required to take a one-day soul-winning course, but under the new requirements, appointed and approved missionaries will need to take a more intensive seminar within two years of appointment.

"We have consulted with missionaries and convention leadership across the country and feel strongly that the missionaries need these soul-winning tools to help reach this nation for Christ," Lewis explained.

During the meeting, Lewis was asked to clarify for HMB executive committee members his position on actions last month by the Woman's Missionary Union which allow for expansion of the scope of WMU work.

Stating that he had been misunderstood by some Southern Baptists, Lewis said, "I am not in support of any SBC agency supporting a schismatic organization that has set itself against Southern Baptist leadership and agencies. However, I am not opposed to any agency, including the WMU, serving every church which is in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention."

Lewis explained that he has directed HMB staff to serve any church that would be considered a cooperating Southern Baptist church. "If messengers from a church are seated at the Southern Baptist Convention, we are obligated to assist and serve that church and its people. We cannot and will not, however, support any organization that has set itself up as a shadow denomination with agencies in direct competition with SBC agencies."

The executive committee received a year-end financial report from Ernest Kelley, executive vice president for planning and finance. He reported that 1992 was a good year financially for the HMB. Annie Armstrong receipts were \$2.6 million over budget, according to Kelley.

Baptist colleges plan spring preview events

The Baptist colleges in Mississippi have scheduled spring preview events to invite junior and senior high school students and their parents to visit the campuses to explore academic opportunities.

The events also include tours, information about admission policies and financial aid, and opportunities for students to visit with faculty and attend classes.

Blue Mountain College

Blue Mountain College has scheduled its Spring Fest '93 for March 4-5. The event begins Thursday evening at 5 p.m. and concludes with lunch on Friday. Among the highlights of the two-day event is a dramatic production starring BMC students. To register, call the BMC Admissions Office at (601) 685-4161 or (800) 235-0136.

Mississippi College

Mississippi College is inviting students and parents to campus April 2. The day begins with registration and breakfast at 8:15 a.m. in the B.C. Rogers Student Center and concludes at 1:30 p.m., with lunch and a dialogue session with faculty and staff. Among the day's events is a musical presentation by MC students. Additional information is available by calling MC's Office of Admissions (601) 925-3240 or (800) 738-1346.

William Carey College

William Carey College will host spring preview events Feb. 27 and April 24. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with activities concluding at 2 p.m. Participants are invited to the WCC baseball game April 24. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Jewel Buckley at (601) 582-5051 or (800) 962-5991.

Lindsey noted. Amounts range from \$100 to \$1,500 and are offered in art, business, Bible, missions, history, social, mathematics, ministerial, music, physical education, psychology, teacher education, and a host of general areas. Some scholarships have specific eligibility requirements, and athletic and music performance scholarships are based on ability demonstrated in tryouts and auditions.

To apply for a scholarship, students must submit a completed application form and have three references sent to the college. Necessary forms are available through the BMC Admissions Office.

Students wanting additional information may address their

You don't work alone . . . we're right alongside you . . . and lo, He is with us always.

alongside

This Issue of alongside is a Supplement

to the BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Thursday
February 18, 1993

Just the Facts

by
Marjean Patterson

Many members of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union have heard and read reports about the actions taken by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC in January. I wished for all our members to be present with us at that historic meeting because of the deep sense of God's presence which was felt there.

In the midst of some misinformation, and because of your interest and commitment to the Great Commission and the missions effort it commands, I want to share some facts which you may not have read or understood in other accounts of the actions of the Executive Board of WMU, SBC.

JUST THE FACTS...

1. Woman's Missionary Union remains committed to missions through all possible means.

2. No action was taken to lessen our commitment to Southern Baptist missions nor to add to our prayer calendar and curriculum materials.

3. No action was taken to move WMU closer to any Baptist group. However, at a group's initiative, WMU will consider providing prayer support and printed resources.

4. WMU affirmed our long-standing practice of providing generic missions education materials to non-SBC groups who share similar missions concerns.

5. WMU has not in the past nor will it by these actions appoint missionaries, collect missions offerings, or distribute mission funds to any Southern Baptist or non-Southern Baptist board or organization.

It is our intent that there be no change in the historic role of WMU, including her relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention, especially the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board.

Those of us on the staff of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will continue to support the work of our two SBC mission boards by promoting the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings, by encouraging our members to pray for missionaries, by creating an atmosphere in our churches where young and old alike will be confronted with God's claim on our lives for His service.

These are just the facts, ma'am and sir.

ENCOUNTER MISSIONS!

WMU Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church of Gulfport - March 19 and 20

The 1993 WMU Annual Meeting will be one of the most inspirational and involving events that you can take part in this year! The theme for this annual event is "ENCOUNTER MISSIONS!" We will be doing just that with hands-on experiences along the Gulf Coast to kick off the meeting on Friday morning, March 19th. General sessions will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, a banquet at 5:00 and night session at 7:00 p.m. Saturday morning session will begin at 9:30 and the closing session will be from 1:00 until 3:00 Saturday afternoon. A special feature will be a box lunch/mission tour of the coast Saturday at lunch time. We are very pleased to have coming to be with us, Mrs. Jessilena Muringai, the national WMU President of Zimbabwe. Accompanying Mrs. Muringai will be June Mason, SBC missionary to Zimbabwe. Catherine Allen, President of the Baptist World Alliance Women's

Department, will be a featured speaker. Mrs. Allen is a native of Birmingham and was formerly an associate executive director for WMU, SBC. Our annual meeting music will be inspirational this year with Dr. Jerry Aultman, professor at New Orleans Seminary on the piano, Mrs. Carol Aultman, music director and soprano soloist, and Mrs. Dot Pray, keyboard consultant at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, on the organ. We are also pleased that "One Voice," a group of singers from across Mississippi, sponsored by the Church Music Department, will be performing. A special presentation of the musical "Lottie D" will be presented Friday night by First Baptist Church in Starkville. Kay Bennett, missionary with the Home Mission Board serving at the Clovis Brantley Center in New Orleans, along with Valeria Sherard, retired missionary from Alaska will be telling us

about home missions in their respective areas.

WMU, SBC, in Birmingham will be represented by Mary Helen Dixon, their development specialist working with Second Century Fund. Also featured will be Jennifer Lott of Hattiesburg, recently elected as National Actees panelist.

Mississippi Baptist women will be electing a new state president at this annual meeting. There will be a breakfast on Saturday from 8:00 until 9:00 a.m. to honor Mrs. Joan Tyler, outgoing president. The banquet on Friday night is by reservation only and is \$8.00 per ticket. The box lunch/mission tour at Saturday lunch is \$5.00 and is also by reservation only. Reservation forms have been sent to church and associational WMU directors and are coming out also in *1993 Happenings in Woman's Missionary Union*.

ENCOUNTER MISSIONS!

WMU Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church of Gulfport

March 19 and 20

MUSIC:



DR. & MRS. JERRY AULTMAN
NOBTS, New Orleans

DOT PRAY
MBCB, Jackson, Miss.

SPEAKERS:



KAY BENNETT
Missionary, HMB



CATHERINE ALLEN
PRESIDENT, WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT
BWA



VALERIA SHERARD
Missionary, HMB



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CAMP GARAYWA

Mon., August 2	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Tues., August 3	9:30 - 2:00 p.m.
	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Wed., August 4 9:30 - 2:00 p.m.

NORTH EXTENSION

Thurs., August 5	FBC / New Albany	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Fri., August 6	FBC / New Albany	9:00 - 12 noon
Sat., August 7	FBC / Greenville	9:00 - 12 noon

SOUTH EXTENSION

Thurs., August 5	FBC / Biloxi	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Fri., August 6	FBC / Biloxi	9:00 - 12 noon
Sat., August 7	Tylertown Baptist Church	9:00 - 12 noon

"And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Colossians 3:17

(These dates are a week earlier than CLT in previous years and some calendars might reflect other dates. Disregard others, these are correct!)

YOUTH Make the Difference

The Youth Coed Missions Convention was such an inspirational experience last year for grades 7-12 that an even bigger event is planned this spring at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly the week of March 16-17-18.

This convention was formerly the state Acteen convention. Last year, the WMU joined forces with the Brotherhood Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to sponsor the Coed Missions Conference. For many churches in Mississippi, this is a good opportunity

for their Acteen and Pioneer RA organizations to experience missions together. For others, "Express Missions," a coed missions program, is already operating and this will be a highlight. Whatever the case in your church, don't let your youth miss this special three days.

The conference will begin with registration at Gulfshore on Tuesday, March 16 at 3:00 pm. followed by supper at 5:30. The conference will conclude Thursday morning at 9:00 am and many may join in spending the day helping with various missions projects on the Gulf Coast. The cost of the conference is \$65.00 per person

which includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, limited insurance, a conference T-shirt and materials. Registration deposits of \$30.00 per person are due now to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571, 452-7261. The balance should be paid at registration.

Special Feature: 4-HIM in concert



"YOUth make a Difference" is the theme of the Coed Mission Conference this year. To interpret that theme will be guest speaker, Mark Evans. Mark is a husband and father from Little Rock, Arkansas, who deeply loves

teenagers. He travels across the United States speaking in churches, conferences and schools. Justin Fennell will provide humor in situations, events and musical comedy to show the youth the timeless gospel message. A special feature will be a concert on Tuesday night at 8:30 by the popular contemporary Christian group, "4 HIM." Besides these great personalities, there will be missionaries, mission conferences, Bible studies, music and much more. Your youth will want to be a part of this special conference that centers around missions.

WMU CALENDAR • 1993

JANUARY

23 GA/Acteens Day at William Carey College; 3:00-7:00

FEBRUARY

20 GA/Acteens Day at Mississippi College; 3:00-7:00

21-24 Home Mission Study "Called Out, Sent Forth"

6-27 BW/BYW Retreat, Camp Garaywa; 4:00 Fri-Lunch Sat

MARCH

7-14 Week of Prayer for Home Missions

13 GA Day at Central Hills, 10:00-3:00

16-18 Youth Coed Missions Convention, Gulfshore; 3:00 Tues.-9 a.m. Thurs.

19-20 WMU Annual Meeting, FBC/Gulfport, 2:00 Fri-3:00 Sat

APRIL

3 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Getaway Day, FBC/Leland; 9:30-2:30

16-17 GA Overnight, Camp Garaywa; 5:30 Fri-2:00 Sat

MAY

22 AOT, FBC Grenada; 9:30-12 noon

24 AOT, FBC Brandon; 6:30-9 p.m.

25 AOT, FBC Hattiesburg; 6:30-9 p.m.

JUNE

2-4 GA Mini Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10:00 Wed-1:00 Fri

7-11 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10:00 Mon-1:00 Fri

14-16 Acteens Mini-Camp, Central Hills

16-18 Acteens Mini-Camp, Central Hills

14-18 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10:00 Mon-1:00 Fri

21-25 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10:00 Mon-1:00 Fri

28-30 Acteens Mini-Camp, Camp Garaywa

30-02 GA Mini Camp, Camp Garaywa; 1:00 Wed-1:00 Fri

JULY

5-9 GA Mini-Camp

9-10 1st & 2nd Grade Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa; 4:00 Fri-3:00 Sat

12-16 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10:00 Mon-1:00 Fri

19-23 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10:00 Mon-1:00 Fri

26-30 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10:00 Mon-1:00 Fri

AUGUST

2 CLT(Church Leader Training), Camp Garaywa; 6:30-9:00

3 CLT, Camp Garaywa; 9:30-2:00; 6:30-9:00

4 CLT, Camp Garaywa; 9:30-2:00

5 CLT, FBC/New Albany and FBC/Biloxi; 6:30-9:00

6 CLT, FBC/New Albany and FBC/Biloxi; 9:30 2:00

7 CLT, Tylertown BC and FBC/Greenville; 9:30-12:00

13-14 AOT, Camp Garaywa

SEPTEMBER

10-11 GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa; 5:30 Fri-2:00 Sat

10-11 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat; 5:00 Fri-Lunch Sat

12-15 State Missions Offering Season of Prayer

OCTOBER

8-9 BW/BYW Retreat, Camp Lake Stephens, Oxford; 4:00 Fri-Lunch Sat

NOVEMBER

11-14 National BNF Convention, Birmingham; 4:00 Thurs-9:30 Sun

13 GA/Acteens Day at Blue Mountain College; 3:00-7:00

15-19 Foreign Missions Study, Indonesia

15 Lay Missions Conference, FBC/Jackson; 1:00-7:00

16-17 Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC/Jackson

28- Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

DECEMBER

5 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

NOTICE CALENDAR CHANGE

The Alta Woods meeting in May and the four AOT meetings in August have been combined this year - 1993 into three meetings in May: May 22, 1993 - Grenada, FBC 9:30 - noon (Saturday) May 24, 1993 - Brandon, FBC 6:30 - 9:00 (Monday) May 25, 1993 - Hattiesburg, FBC 6:30 - 9:00 (Tuesday)

Cancel the following:

May 11, 1993

Alta Woods program interpretation,

Jackson

August 21, 1993

AOT Oxford

August 23, 1993

AOT Brandon

August 24, 1993

AOT in Winona

August 26, 1993

AOT in Columbia

Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women Retreat Camp Garaywa February 25-26 *It's Not Too Late*

Woman's Missionary Union is preparing for the annual Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women Retreat scheduled for next weekend, February 26-27, 1993 at Camp Garaywa. This has always been an inspiring time of growth and renewal set aside for Mississippi Baptist Women and led by outstanding lay women of our state.

Registration will begin Friday at 4:00 p.m. followed by supper at 6:00. The retreat will conclude after lunch on Saturday. *The cost of the retreat will be \$23.00 per person, payable to Camp Garaywa, P.O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060. Each camper should bring her own linens.*

Bible Studies at this retreat will be led by Jewel Merritt of Jackson. There will be

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Everything you need for publicizing all state, age-level events...IN ONE BOOK!

This book emphasizes each event with a one-page promotion piece which can be used as a poster, a flyer, or however you choose. Also, included in this book are the appropriate registration forms. We hope this will be helpful to you as you plan and promote WMU this year. **1993 HAPPENINGS** should arrive in the hands of all church and associational WMU directors soon. If you have not received a copy, please contact your church WMU director to request one. She will contact us to order the appropriate number for your church WMU leadership.

dramatic portrayals of Esther and Priscilla by Deborah Brunt of Corinth. Bobbie Foster of Prentiss will play the Marimba. Special music will be performed by Gwen Williams, home missionary in New Orleans. Pamela Smith of Clinton will lead the women in "Relaxation Aerobics." Peggy Wallace of Peru and Gwen Williams will be among the featured missionaries participating in the MissionStroll that will conclude the Friday night program.

Special interest conferences will be held on Saturday. The leaders will be Linda Donnell of Hattiesburg, Bloom in Your Leadership Image!; Deborah Brunt, Things Fall, People Fall; Gail Benedict of Purvis, Doing Missions Where You Are; On the Field with Gwen and Peggy.

Deadline for Camp Garaywa registration is February 23.

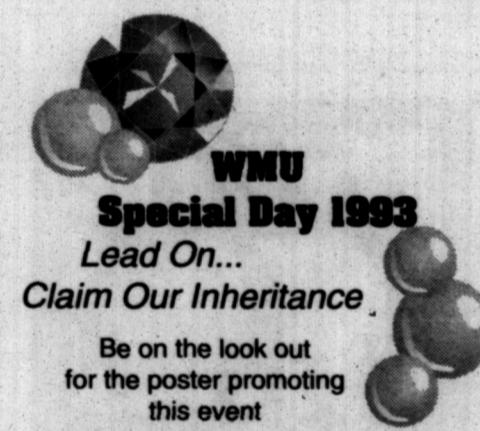
BY-LAW CHANGE

The WMU Executive Board is proposing a change in its by-laws. The change is as follows:

Add to the end of Article V, Section 1 Officers:

"The officers shall have served on the Executive Board for at least one year."

Policy Personnel Committee of the WMU Executive Board.



Mississippians at WMU, SBC, Executive Board meeting at Shocco Springs, Alabama. Left to right, Jan Cossitt, state acteen consultant; Helen Price, camp director and interim GA consultant; Joan Tyler, state WMU president; Ashley McCaleb, BW/BYW consultant; Betty Dobbs, state WMU vice-president; Eugene Dobbs, administrative assistant for ministry, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU.



CENTRAL HILLS

June 14-16
Mon. 10 a.m.- Wed. 10 a.m.

June 16-18
Wed. 1 p.m. - Fri. 1 p.m.

COST: \$50

June 28-30
Mon. 10 a.m.- Wed. 10 a.m.

Includes: Meals, Lodging, Snacks, Crafts, Insurance and Theme T-Shirt!!

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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Uptown Baptist Church
Needed: Women to lead in Backyard Bible Club and other activities as requested
Cost: \$450

ALASKA - Anchorage and Fairbanks
* June/July 1993 (1 week each month)
GA Camp
Needed: College Students for Counselors
Cost: \$600

ZIMBABWE

* APRIL 30 - MAY 8, 1993
Needed: Women to do secretarial work such as computer work, regular typing, and filing
Cost: \$2350

ILLINOIS - East St. Louis
* AUGUST 13-15, 1993
Christian Activity Center
Needed: Women to lead a back-to-school event for children
Cost: \$225

ALASKA - Anchorage

* APRIL 22-24, 1993
WMU House Party
Needed: Musician for sessions and four women to work with preschoolers
Cost \$700
* JUNE 21-25, 1993
VBS Day Camp for Internationals
Needed: BYW team of twelve plus a cook
Cost: \$825

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**GA
Mother/Daughter
Overnights**

April 16-17

Fri. 5:30-Sat. 2 p.m.
(All Ages)

July 9-10

Fri. 4 p.m.-Sat. 3 p.m.
(1st & 2nd grades only)

September 10-11

Fri. 5:30-Sat. 2 p.m.
(All Ages)

\$23 per person

(includes: meals, lodging,
crafts, & limited insurance)

CAMP GARAYWA

**Edwina Robinson
Special Day 1993**

Theme:

*Lead On ... Claim Our
Inheritance*

1993 Goal: \$61,000

In 1951, Edwina Robinson, then executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, realized that no matter how well budgets were planned, special needs always came along. Mississippi WMU began an annual emphasis in the month of May to study about special needs, pray for them and receive an offering for them. In 1972, this offering was named for Miss Ed. Special Day is for the women and children of Woman's Missionary Union to help missionary appointees, scholarships, MK's, pioneer WMU's, Seamen's Centers, Camp Garaywa, aged ministers and widows with no annuity and area WMU work throughout Mississippi. It is hoped that this special emphasis will be observed during May.

We did not meet our goal in 1992 for WMU Special Day. We hope and pray that our emphasis in 1993 will provide the support we need for these special causes.

**SPECIAL
DAYS**
JUST FOR YOU

GA/ACTEENS

Mississippi College February 20

Blue Mountain College November 13

MISSIONARIES *BASKETBALL* *TESTIMONIES*
\$7.50 ea. *CHEERLEADERS* *MUSIC* 3 pm-7 pm
(includes: basketball game, meals, limited insurance)

GA DAY AT CENTRAL HILLS
Saturday, March 13
\$3.00 ea. Grades 1-6 10 am-3 pm
Bring a sack lunch
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DON'T MISS IT!

alongside



**Places to Be In '93
for
BAPTIST
NURSING FELLOWSHIP**

MEMBERS.....PROSPECTS.....GUESTS

March 19 BNF DINNER: FBC/GULFPORT (5:00 p.m.)

SPEAKER - VALERIA SHERARD

COST - \$8:00

Following the meal with others attending the Annual WMU Meeting, BNFers will go to a separate room for their program. Then, those who can stay, will attend the 7 p.m. General Session of the Annual Meeting.

April 3

SPRING GET-A-WAY: FBC/Leland (8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.)

COST - \$8.00 / person (Meal and Registration)

PRESENTERS:

VICKI McCALL: Leading in Caring for my Community

LAVERNE BARNES: Leading in Meeting Needs Internationally

SCOTTIE & JON DOLER: Leading in the Workplace

JOHN VESS: Leading in Meeting the Needs of the Care Giver

**September
10-11**

BNF RETREAT: Camp Garaywa

(6 p.m., supper thru lunch, Saturday)

COST - \$23.00 / person (includes \$3.00 registration fee)

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FELLOWSHIP...

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**WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR
HOME MISSIONS**

**Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering**

March 7-14, 1993

National Goal: \$38,000,000

Offerings envelopes, prayer guides and posters may be obtained from the WMU office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 968-3800. Program materials are included in WMU curriculum magazines.

**GA
Grades 3-6
Camp Garaywa
1993 Summer's Best to you**

Follow the Leader to the

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ADVENTURE**

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Swimming
Cookouts
Missionaries
Adventure Course
Archery
Crafts
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published by Mississippi WMU

Marjean Patterson	Executive Director
Ashley McCaleb	BW/BYW Consultant
Jan Cossitt	Campus BYW/Acteens Consultant
Pam Keith	Interim WMU Consultant
Helen Price	Camp Director
Kathie Perrett	Office Secretary
Cheryl Brabham	Office Secretary
Cindy Coon	Editor



Letters to the editor



Undermines missions?

Editor:

I have read and followed closely your good coverage of the intentions of the WMU. It was from one of your articles I learned of the intent of the WMU to host a booth for the 1992 Convention of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Several ladies in our church and two or three other churches in our association wrote the WMU office in Birmingham and asked that the WMU not participate in this endeavor. (We feel this is undermining to SBC missions). We all received a 2-page letter and in essence, the letter informed us we had no say so in the matter.

Now, your article in the Jan. 14 issue of the Record indicates WMU will continue on with CBF, under an ad-hoc committee. We, (the little old ladies of WMU), may not have a say so in the decision making of WMU, but I think we should. However, we do have a say so as to where we buy our missions materials. I will be asking our church in the future to purchase our materials from the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. I am also writing Morris Chapman, giving him the support of our church to organize a WMU within the Convention.

Our church spends at least \$1,500

a year on literature and teaching tools for our WMU. I would like to hear from other WMU directors who feel our literature monies can support mission work better by being channeled through our Convention.

Also, I will appreciate a clarification concerning one of the core values of the WMU published in this article on Jan. 14: "The need for diverse organizational models for missions." Does this mean the WMU is opening up to anyone as leader, missionary, etc., and does this by chance open up their missions endeavors to gays and lesbians?

Mrs. Earl Parish
Starkville

Assumed integrity

Editor:

A preacher friend of mine recently expressed his concern about the course being followed by the WMU. I questioned him about the specific change or changes proposed by the WMU which are problems in his mind. He didn't know the proposals. He only knew the reaction of SBC leaders to them. When I enumerated the WMU action, he said that he completely agreed with these changes.

When I read childish, inflamma-

tory statements such as those made about the WMU by the trustee chairman of the Foreign Mission Board, I can understand how people get disturbed about the WMU with no knowledge of what was done. They assume that someone in such a leadership role has enough integrity to be fair.

It is discouraging to think that someone like John Jackson has been entrusted with the distribution of so much of the money given for the Lord's work. Nothing provides a greater impetus to switching contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship than comparing Jackson's comments with the response of the WMU leaders.

Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

Cockrell tribute

Editor:

Having served as president of Clarke College for more than 22 years and for most of those years having Earl Cockrell as one of our most loyal trustees, it grieved me to hear of his death.

Across the years Earl Cockrell was one of the most generous contributors to the unique ministry of Clarke. He once handed me a check to Clarke for several thousand dollars. When I asked him what he

would like for this to go for, he replied, "You know more about where it is needed than I do." He did not use his large gifts as a basis for trying to rule.

Also, he did not "sound a trumpet" that he have might glory of men. When we proposed to name in his honor a building he had given a lot of money to build, he resisted the proposal. Only when I convinced him that this might inspire others to make worthy gifts would he consent for us to proceed.

Earl had a special interest in students for the ministry, particularly those who answered God's call after being married and with a family. One former student told me about a time shortly before Christmas when he became the channel for this help for God's "called out" servants. Earl handed him a roll of hundred dollar bills: "Take this money and pass it out to any of the 'preacher boys' who may have some special needs for their families at Christmas time." He said he went from door to door handing out these bills to those he knew of with such needs, and this was one of the most wonderful Christmas seasons he himself ever had as he had the privilege of passing on this needed help. In this also he sought no publicity. Only the Lord in heaven knows how many hundreds of students for the ministry he helped in their preparation for effective service and how many thousands of people are being brought to Christ through the ministry of these men.

I am deeply grateful for the privilege God gave me of being a co-worker with this great Christian steward.

W. Lowery Compere
Newton

Pastors are missionaries

Editor:

I am a Southern Baptist missionary working as a church developer in Zimbabwe. Recently while in a conversation with a missionary returning from furlough, I heard a statement which concerned me. She said, "You know we are treat-

ed much better as missionaries than we were while struggling in the pastorate." She went on to speak of the growing struggles that face today's clergy and the lack of support given to them as they seek to lead their congregations. I must admit my heart ached as I reflected back over what she had said.

Southern Baptists, the real heroes of the faith are the men who stand before you week after week faithfully breaking the bread of life. They are the ones who are up at night holding the hand of a dying saint or wrestling with a church problem. Many of them live on very modest incomes with no retirement and little medical insurance to see them through a crisis. Many of our pastors are often misunderstood and misrepresented, suffering under the consequences of the present day integrity crisis, when they in fact have been faithful to God and to themselves.

Today many men are fired because they have continued to preach the Word, addressing issues that have resulted in their dismissal. I know these men, many of whom I have fellowshiped with over the last 12 years. They are men of the highest integrity and their commitment to lead their congregations through the troubled waters of our day will be the only hope for America as we approach the 21st century.

The key to a strong denomination is churches who will love and support their pastors. Remember Southern Baptist that your pastor is as much a missionary as any missionary in the world and he deserves the same support and respect. If we fail to understand this principle then we are in for some dark days ahead. God's greatest gift outside of our Lord Jesus Christ has been and will always be the countless undershepherds who stand in the midst of a world, preaching, "Thus saith the Lord." God bless you men, for it is your leadership and commitment to missions that make it possible for us to be here.

Jeffrey R. Parker
Harare, Zimbabwe

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Growth

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*We pledge that this will continue,
believing that "Faith Fosters Growth."*

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Sunday, Feb. 21, 1993

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Thursday, February 18, 1993

Names in the News



Charles Corey, director of the Center for International Seamen and Truckers (wearing cap) recently brought six Russian seamen to the Gulf Coast Association's men's rally. This was their first time to set foot on American soil. The center is currently operating out of temporary quarters at the Port of Gulfport.

Senior Brad Hartzog of Jackson and junior Lori Valentine of Clinton will be presented in a joint voice recital by the Department of Music at Mississippi College, Feb. 24, 3 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Both students are pupils of Gerald Claxton, assis-

tant professor of music, and both are working toward the bachelor of music degree. Hartzog is the son of James and Susan Hartzog of Jackson; Valentine is the daughter of James G. Valentine of Vicksburg.

Celebrate Volunteers in Missions Day on Feb. 28

By Paul Harrell

On Feb. 28, 1993, Southern Baptist churches will focus on Volunteers in Missions Day. The purpose of this day will be:

To inform the church membership about the ministry of volunteers.

To provide recognition and spiritual enrichment and mission education.

To help to develop mission-minded congregations.

To focus on prayer and challenge others to become involved in volunteer missions.

Some churches utilize both morning and evening services for this focus. The Sunday morning message may include the biblical basis for volunteer missions, and the night service could feature testimonies from volunteers.

Some other activities may include a missions banquet on Saturday night or Sunday night, a missions fair, a display of pictures from various mission projects, videos of volunteers at work, or a presentation of proposed projects. Certificates of appreciation could be presented to those volunteers who have served in a selected mission project this past year.

Mississippi Baptists have a strong commitment to volunteer missions. During 1992, 6,200 Mississippi volunteers engaged

in mission projects in 25 states of our Southern Baptist Convention and in 25 foreign mission settings. We now have mission partnership with Zimbabwe, Africa, Illinois, and Alaska. A survey team just returned from Honduras where they have been in dialogue about a partnership with this nation beginning Jan. 1, 1994.

These are truly exciting days in which lay persons can explore their own sense of mission as they seek to reach our state and our world for the Lord.

Harrell is director of Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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WHAT YOU DO NOT START!"

ENROLL NOW

in the
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Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary

Admission deadline for April 19 entry is March 1

Doctor of Ministry Office, P.O. Box 3624, Memphis, TN 38103 (901)726-9171

Staff Changes

Roy T. Myers, pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, for 11 1/2 years, has resigned to become the pastor of Meadville Church, Meadville, effective March 1. Myers was serving as moderator for George Association and a member of the Area Mission Committee. He is presently serving as chairman of the Order of Business Committee, MBC and trustee of the Historical Commission, SBC.



Myers

First Faith Church, Panola Association, has called **John Searcy** as pastor. He and his family moved to the church field the last week of December.

Ron Harrison, former pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Leake, is now pastor at Arbor Grove Church, Chickasaw Association.

Robert M. Carlisle, pastor of Big Ridge Church, D'Iberville for 32 years, will retire in February. He and his wife, Joyce, will be honored with a special ceremony and dinner at the St. Martin Community Center, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m. Carlisle plans to continue his work in the ministry. He is already involved



Carlisle with a local mission project, Hudson-Krohn Road Church, sponsored by Big Ridge Church.

Daniel C. Browning, assistant professor of religion at William Carey College, will lead a summer travel program to the Holy Land with an option to participate in an archaeological excavation. The tour will cover all of Israel with concentration on historical sites related to the Bible. The dates are June 21-July 3. For more information, call 582-6156 or write Browning at William Carey College.

Siloam Church, Clay County, had a special service honoring its pastor, **Avery Jones**, and his wife Vernie for 10 years of service. He was presented a silver tray. A covered dish dinner was served in fellowship hall.

Revival Dates

Straight Bayou, Anguilla: Feb. 21-26; Sunday, high attendance day for Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jack Stanley, Clute, Texas, evangelist; Donnie Crosswhite, Augusta, Ga., music; Brad Banks, pastor.

Pineview, Hattiesburg: Feb 21-24; services, 11 a.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. nightly; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, evangelist, and Larry Lott, music/youth minister, Pineview, will lead services; youth night on Mon., and children's night at 6 p.m. on Tues., with pizza served both nights; Bobby Shurden, pastor.

Shady Grove, Batesville: March 1-5; 7 p.m.; preaching by Malcolm Pinion, Mantee Church, Houston; John Stewart, pastor.

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THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH in Columbus, Miss., is presently looking for a part time minister of music and youth. Any

individual who is interested should mail a resume to: Community Baptist Church, Search Committee Chairman, 2490 Yorkville Road East, Columbus, MS 39702 or they may call 327-5306 or 328-2105.

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Easthaven Church of Richland recently honored its GAs and RAs. GAs pictured at top are, from left, front row, Kristen Valentine, Amanda Different, Laura Sparkman, Misty Lewis; back row, Latashia Smith, Kathy Ford, GA director, T.J. Jordan, Maunda Sparkman, assistant GA leader, and Brandy Smith. RAs pictured, from left, are Chris Howard, Matt Ford, Ron Lewis, RA director, Ronnie Lewis, and Neal Smith.



Oglesbee called as DOM for Kemper Association



Oglesbee

Paul B. Oglesbee Jr. has been called as director of missions for Kemper Association. He assumes the duties while serving as pastor of Bay Springs Church of Kemper County. Oglesbee has also served as pastor of Diamondhead and Lawrence churches. He was educated from Mississippi State University and received the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Mary Brand of Hickory and they are parents of three children.

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Thursday, February 18, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 2

Just for the Record



First Church, Woodland, recently presented a plaque to Sid Ward, left, in appreciation of his service as deacon for 28 years. Ward is pictured with Harold Talley, right, pastor.

Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville, will host a Marriage Enrichment Conference on Feb. 19 and 20. Leaders for the conference will be Mr. and Mrs. Philip Cyole of New Orleans Seminary. The tickets are \$15 per couple which includes dinner on Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday.

Goodyear Church, Picayune, will host its second annual Spring Bible Conference March 14-17.

Preaching on the theme, "God's Word: Revealing the Saviour and the Saints," will be Herschel Hobbs, preacher, author, and Bible expositor; Gray Allison, president, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis; Dean Register, pastor, Temple Church, Hattiesburg; and Mel Mason, pastor, Leclair Church, Memphis. Speakers and times are: Allison, Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Hobbs, Sun., 7 p.m., Mon., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Register, Mon., 8 p.m.; and Mason, Tues. and Wed.

Burn Page, right, pastor of First Church, Wiggins, and member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presents a check for \$2,500 to Richard Colwell, pastor, Olivet Church, Gulfport. The money for aiding in the repairs to the church buildings was made possible by gifts through the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.



7 p.m. Arlis F. Grice is pastor of Goodyear Church.

Northcrest Bible Conference will be held at Northcrest Church, Meridian, on March 3, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Participating in the preaching will be C.C. Burns, Enterprise; Grady Crowell, DOM for Clarke Association; Junior Hill, Hartselle,

Ala.; Danny Lanier, Meridian; J. Garland McKee, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Patrick Pfrimmer, Toombs, Malcolm Lewis is pastor of Northcrest Church. For more information, call 482-3498.

Waltz elected executive for Penn/Jersey

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP) — The Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey's executive board unanimously elected David C. Waltz as executive director-treasurer during a Feb. 6 regular session in Harrisburg.

Waltz, 40, will become the convention's fifth executive director, succeeding Wallace Williams, who resigned last year to become a faculty member at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity in Birmingham, Ala.

Waltz has been the interim executive since mid-August of last year. He has headed the Evangelism/Brotherhood Division since September 1990.

He is the son of the late Joe Waltz, the convention's first executive director-treasurer, who died after only a year in office in the early 1970s.

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Atlanta Braves chapel

Program 2 — Brian Lee (Ole Miss Football)
Todd Klinchen (LSU Football)

Program 3 — Jeff Brantley (pro baseball - Miss. St.)
Adam Guler (movie "The Patriot")

Program 4 — San Francisco 49ers (Brent Jones & Steve Wallace)

Program 5 — D.J. Dozier (NFL - Penn St.)

Leelle Frasier (NFL - Columbus, MS)

Program 6 — Calvin Smith (Olympic sprinter - Bolton, MS)

Lake Speed (NASCAR driver - Jackson, MS)

Kent Austin (former Ole Miss QB)

(Each program approximately 25-minutes in length)

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Uniform Challenged to serve



By Chuck Pourciau
Romans 15:1-13

The scene is a basketball huddle during a time out. There are 10 seconds left on the clock, the score is tied, and your team has possession of the ball. The national championship is on the line. The coach instructs each player to run a different offensive play. You say, "That is foolish. He would never do that." You are correct. He would not. For a team to be successful, they all have to be running the same play and pressing toward the same goal. They have to play as a team.

The same is true in the life of the church. For us to be successful we must play as a unified team. For that to be possible we must be willing to serve one another. There is no room for arrogance or selfishness on a team. Paul gave us insight into serving one another and achieving unity.

Each Christian must concentrate on building up his neighbor (vv. 1-2). In Chapter 14 Paul spoke of a dispute that was common in the churches of his day. It was basically a Jewish Christian/Gentile Christian issue. The Jewish Christians were more concerned with traditional Jewish beliefs than were the Gentile Christians. This caused a conflict between the two groups. It was a difference of opinion, but neither side was wrong. There was nothing wrong with observing some traditional Jewish rites, and there was nothing wrong with not observing them. What was wrong was to criticize the other group for not seeing it your way. So Paul told them to encourage each other.

It is indeed likely that Christians will hold differing but valid views on certain issues. Not all issues are black and white. Many are gray. Paul never compromised on the black and white issues, but he encouraged mutual acceptance on the gray ones. We do not have to agree on every issue, but we do have to accept, support, and love one another. When we love one another and focus on what we have in common, unity will occur.

Jesus is our finest example of sacrificial service (vv. 3-6). Jesus certainly was not pleasing himself when he endured the cross. He limited himself for our sake. The sinless one took on the sin of the world for our sake. He could have overcome his opponents easily, but he chose not to. Paul held up Jesus as an example for us to follow. We are at our strongest when we humble ourselves so another can be exalted.

The result of following this example of Christ will be church unity (v. 5). It is then that the world and the devil will hear one strong voice and not many weak ones (v. 6). Only when we are one will we be able to carry out God's will in our community. Yet we must never confuse unity with uniformity.

Jesus is our finest example of the acceptance of others (vv. 7-12). Paul spoke to both groups when he called on them to accept one another as Christ had accepted them. Christ received all people and was God's minister to both Jews (Peter) and Gentiles (Roman centurion). Paul urged both groups to accept the other. Respect and acceptance is in the job description of *every* believer.

Paul then pointed to Scripture to strengthen further his position that they must love and accept all believers (vv. 8-12). He reminded the Gentiles that they had been accepted by a Jewish messiah and thus must not reject their Jewish brethren (v. 8). On the other hand, the Jewish Christians must realize that the mission of Christ had always had the Gentiles in view (vv. 9-12). In sum, Christ was a minister to both Jew and Gentile, so we also must minister to all. Jesus wasn't selective and neither must we be.

Joy, hope, and peace come through the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 13). Paul prayed that his readers be filled with peace, hope, and joy. This is made possible through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. It is difficult to have peace when a church is in conflict. Conflict is guaranteed where there is not a spirit of acceptance and respect among the membership. Yet where there is acceptance and unity, there is peace.

None of us were saved because we were good or worthy. None of us were saved because we had impressed God with our exemplary conduct. We were saved because Christ accepted us in spite of our sinfulness. The *least* we can do is accept each other.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book Affirmation of faith



By Guy A. Hughes
Psalms 23, 27

A few years ago during Christmas a faithful church member and I visited a family in need. I knocked and heard the pitter-patter of little feet as the children scampered to see the unexpected visitor. A small, light-haired girl of four opened the door and cried, "Mama" when she did not recognize these strangers.

A petite but rugged looking woman, with a two-year old in arms, appeared in the doorway puzzled at the visit. She invited us in, delighted at the prospect of receiving assistance. We were led by flashlight to the living area. I watched as the four-year-old opened the dark refrigerator and draw out an open jar of peanut butter with a fork stuck in it. She ate as she listened to us talk. "I'm expecting my husband to come back. Times have been tough and he left to try to get a better job," she said so half-heartedly we knew she was unsure of her husband's intentions. The four-year-old chimed in, "We're going to have a good Christmas when Daddy comes back."

Her faith in Daddy was futile. The only presents she got that Christmas were from loving members of the Lord's church and neighbors who cared. Before long the little girl would give up looking for Daddy. Whereas, we human fathers sometimes disappoint our children, our heavenly Father will never disappoint us.

The God who provides abundantly (23:1-6). David drew on his experiences as a shepherd to describe how God provides for us. A good shepherd would lead his flock to rest and security. The shepherd leads his sheep faithfully because the condition of the flock is a reflection of the nature of the shepherd's work and character. God leads us for his "name's sake." God's people will have what they need because his love commands it. The shepherd protects his sheep and they need not fear. God's children need not fear the darkness because he assures us of his presence. We should fear our greatest enemy, death, as much as we fear our own shadow.

Just as the shepherd faithfully prepared food for his sheep as the hungry wolf walked by, God prepares a feast for us in the presence of our enemies. The good shepherd never quits discharging his duties just as God will always exercise his goodness and mercy forever.

Blessings of trust in the Lord (27:1-4). David wrote this in the face of much opposition. God has never promised his people an easy life but he did promise us help to live it. Our trials and sorrows will appear but they will never prevail. God was David's "light" in a dark world. My two girls, Leah and Kristen, love to have a night light. A little light does wonders to dispel the fears of a dark room. Why should we be afraid to live in this dark world when Jesus loudly proclaimed himself as the light of the world? Like a candle needs its wax and a flashlight needs its battery, the people of God need the energizing presence of God's spirit-fire as we worship Him in our homes and churches.

Prayer for the Lord's blessings (27:10-14). Every child who lives deserves the love of his mother and father. Sadly, in this world distorted by sin, it is not always the case. Verse 10 holds a tremendous promise, "When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up". Scoffers point at the starving children of the world and shake their other fist at God. Eternity will prove that every hand that points a finger at God in bitterness will have four fingers pointing back at themselves. Man alone is responsible for his terrible plight. Like David, "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (v. 13).

My favorite gospel tract is entitled, "Somebody Loves Me." The tract opens with several pictures of a small child being beaten by his alcoholic father because he did not panhandle enough money to buy a bottle of whiskey for the day. Angrily sending his son back to the streets to beg, the rain and cold come, exposing the boy to the elements. Fearfully, he climbs into a crate in the alley to spend the night where he sees a picture tract of God's love given to man upon the cross. Clinging to the tract the boy falls asleep and dies overnight due to exposure. And the closing scene depicts an angel of the Lord lifting the boy from the crate, ushering him to the joys of paradise.

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Pathways of faith



By Laura Russell
Genesis 32:9-11a; 33:1-4, 8-10

Jacob was a man who could not get away from the consequences of an old wrong. Many years before, Jacob had defrauded Esau. He got away to a safe distance, and he had stayed there a long time. But he wanted to go back home; however, Esau was there. What would Esau do if Jacob came back?

Jacob prays about a damaged relationship (32:9-11a). Jacob's couriers informed him that Esau was on his way from Edom with 400 men. Jacob had much fear in his heart as he remembered his brother's threats of years before and imagined that Esau was making plans for revenge. Four hundred men under the leadership of an angry man could be dangerous. So Jacob did something that guaranteed his safety. He went to the Lord in humble prayer. This is a remarkable prayer for Jacob to pray. It is not pious or formal, but a spontaneous expression of a heart full of fear and anxiety. It shows that in spite of all his deceitful actions Jacob has not lost contact with God. When we face a difficult conflict, we can run frantically about or we can pause to pray, as Jacob did. Which approach will be more effective?

Jacob prepares for Esau's coming (33:1-3). The dreaded moment has finally come when Jacob is to meet Esau face to face. One last precautionary measure had to be taken. Jacob put himself first in the way of danger, if there was to be any. Then he arranges his wives and children in order so, that the most beautiful and best loved came last, in an effort to spare them. After that was done, with fear and trepidation, but also with his most engaging manner, Jacob met Esau and bowed before him seven times. This was a sign of respect given to a king. Jacob was taking every precaution as he met Esau, hoping to dispel any thoughts of revenge.

Jacob and Esau meet (33:4). Esau runs to meet Jacob, embraces him, falls on his neck and kisses him. Imagine how difficult this must have been for a man who once had actually plotted his brother's death (27:41). But time away from each other allowed the bitter wounds to heal. With the passing of time, each brother was able to see that their relationship was more important than anything.

Jacob and Esau are reconciled (33:8-10). Esau's heart was changed. God had turned his hatred into love. He came to meet Jacob with understanding and forgiveness. In the 20 years that had intervened, the controlling hand of God had brought changes in both men. How refreshing to see Esau's change of heart when the brothers meet again. The bitterness of losing his birthright and blessing seems gone. We must trust God and call upon him in times of trouble. God has the hearts of all men in his hands and can turn them around when he chooses.

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin,
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.

—from "The Touch of the Master's Hand," by Myra Brooks Welch

Life can bring us some bad situations. We can feel cheated and bitter as Esau did, but we do not have to remain that way. We can choose to do what Esau did and remove the bitterness from our lives. We can do this by honestly expressing our feelings to God, forgiving those who wronged us, seek a reconciliation, and then be content with what we have.

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director



P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**Dec. 1, 1992 -
Dec. 31, 1992**

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Kelli and Cole Litton
Mrs. Celeste L. Malatesta
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Tommy Parker
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Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy Porter
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Martha and Franklin Rayburn
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Jay Searcy
Ms. Estelle White
Loren Shackettford
Dorcas SS, Second BC
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Joy SS, FBC Hattiesburg
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Lavan Seales SS, Macedonia BC
Mrs. Frances Smith
Harmony SS, FBC McComb
Mrs. Harold Smith
Mens Friendship Bible Class
FBC Greenwood
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Mr. & Mrs. Guy Miller
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Mrs. Ola McElveen
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Marshall County Chancery
Clerks Office
Mrs. Verdie Taylor
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Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Thomas
Mrs. Doris Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. L. Willard
Mrs. Donnie Thornhill
Joy Sunday School, FBC Columbia
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Lisa Tiellwell
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Mr. Eddie Todd
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James, Mary Alta & Hal Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walters
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Mr. C.F. Hollingsworth
Callie Wilkins
Deacons of FBC Picayune
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Mrs. Wilma Allen & Family
Dr. Mildred Witt
Encourages SS, FBC Columbus
Mrs. C.F. Hollingsworth
Mrs. Kimberly Wright
Mr. Johnnie R. Wright
Mrs. Mary Wright
Mr. Johnnie R. Wright
Rev. and Mrs. Jim Yates
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Holloway

MEMORIALS

Senior Adult members
who passed away
Mrs. Bebbie Parish
Dr. Willard Waldren
Mr. & Mrs. Gladie Woods
Mrs. Jimmie Adair
Dendy SS, North Greenwood BC
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Garrett
Miss Dovie Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lee
Mrs. Belma Aldridge
Jodi Hardy
Hank and Jean Robinson
Van Willard Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Walter E. Pugh
Janet Anthony
Mrs. Ed Barham
Ann Ard
Duane, Wanda & Garrett Bradford
Greg Ard
Duane, Wanda & Garrett Bradford
Vera Arlinder
Mr. & Mrs. Garvin Knight
Roy Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Kinslow
Mrs. Edith Mae Askew
Mrs. Peggy Gillon
Mrs. Maggie Austin
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Skelton
Ms. Audio Mae Cooper
Mr. Fred Bagley
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton
Mrs. Callie Mae Bailey
Mrs. J.B. Lewis
Mrs. Susie Barret
Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Hall Jr.
Mr. W.L. Solomon Jr.
Mr. Dobie Bartling
Mr. W.F. Montgomery
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Majure
Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie A. Vaughn
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Ellison
Mr. & Mrs. George I. Tate
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gowen
Mr. & Mrs. Wilburn White

Mrs. Charles Hooker
Maggie Kathleen Calhoun
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B. Fontenberry
James Boyd Campbell
Mr. Elm Harrison
Mrs. L. Campbell
Mrs. Josie M. Sawyer
Mrs. Conway Carlile
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Smith
Lou Carlile
Mr. & Mrs. Ted E. Smith
Mrs. Louise Carlile
Mrs. Edwin Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Cortez Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. Fleet Lofton & Family
Mrs. Pearl Givens & Family
Mr. Edwin B. Carpenter
Mr. E.B. Carpenter
Mrs. Helen Carruth
Mr. & Mrs. H.P. Carruth Jr.
Mr. James Case
Lavan Seales SS, Macedonia BC
Mr. John Case
Lavan Seales SS, Macedonia BC
Nell Champion
Mr. & Mrs. Ward Jackson
Rev. Fred Chancellor
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Culpepper
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Boone
Mr. Cobert Chaney
Mrs. Martha Dameil
Clayton Clardy
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hardin
Cecil Clayton
Mr. & Mrs. Julian E. Sides Jr.
Jesse Clover
Mr. Mike Davis
Russell Clover
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Lamar Coates
Herman, Sheron & Christopher
Costs
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cockerham
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sanderson
Mrs. John H. Cockerham
Mr. & Mrs. Larry P. Cockrell
Mrs. B.B. Cole
Mrs. Bunice S. Kennedy
Alice Collies
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Livingston
Faye Collins
Mrs. H.L. Hutchinson
Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Landers
Dora Conner
Friends at Nonbees General Hospital
Shares Ann Coored
Mrs. Janice L. Cranage
Mrs. Lucille Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Rodrick Hilt
Gary Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
Mr. and Mrs. St. Corley
Mr. & Mrs. Gladie Woods
Cecil C. Cox
Mrs. Tommy Blaine
Mrs. Eric (Joyce) Blankley
Mr. & Mrs. Carl O. Morris
Mrs. Nancy McGraw
Mr. Clyde Blocker
Mr. & Mrs. Cordie Clover
Mr. Wilson B. Bourne
Mrs. Wilson B. Bourne
Mrs. Louise Bowen
Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Boone
Mrs. Cleo Bowman
Mr. & Mrs. Earl E. Burns
Mrs. Vera H. Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Bennett Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Holloway
Mr. & Mrs. David Jenkins
Mrs. Nell Bradberry
Miss Connie Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Kimbrough
Mrs. Walton Porter
Stacie Michelle Bradford
M/M Harry Little, Ashley & Rachel
Duane, Wanda & Garrett Bradford
William E. Bradford
Mrs. S.H. Beatty
Cari Q. Brandon
Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon
J.E. Branton
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Brown
Elizabeth "Sis" Brewerton
Mr. & Mrs. Ward Jackson
The Father of Dottie Bridgers
Dr. & Mrs. Sam C. Sugg
Mrs. Dora Bridges
First Baptist Church, Magee
Mrs. Maggie Bridges
Mr. Tom Flowers & Family
Mother and Father of
Mrs. Ruth Bright
Mrs. Ruth H. Bright
Mrs. Lillian Briscoe
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Blalock
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mr. J.P. Britt
Lavan Seales SS, Macedonia BC
Vernon H. Broadus
Mr. Marc McArthur
Ora Baptist Church
James Brown
Mr. & Mrs. George A. Milam
Kyle Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Emanuel
Thomas Milton Bryant
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Mr. & Mrs. James T. Majure
Taylor Diane Burns
Mr. & Mrs. M. F. Vaughn
Wade Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mrs. Judy Burris
Siloam Baptist Church
T.D., Effie, Hoover and Margie
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Carl H. Butler Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm G. High

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Mrs. Carlene P. Dodson
Mrs. Ethyllyn Ellises
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gowen
Mrs. Thelma Ellsworth
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Steen
Mr. Bennett Emanuel
Mr. & Mrs. Bennett Emanuel
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Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Alred
James Engleward
Robert & Gwen Fontenberry
Jonny Erie
Mrs. Myra Sadler
Margaret Estes
Pai Bain
Gayle Seiter & Charles Hubbard
Mr. R.F. Everett Sr.
Phillipston Baptist Church
Mr. A.M. "Rip" Fall
Mrs. Martha Fall
Mr. Calvin Farvar
Mr. Ruby A. Sherman
Mrs. Fay Farris
Mr. & Mrs. Terr Champion
& Wendy
Mr. Fleete Fields
Mr. & Mrs. Myrl McCormick
Mr. E.A. Fleming
Mrs. Christine Hollis
Miss Nancy Forbes
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Coker
Mrs. Ethel Forbes
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. Hood
Mrs. Sidney B. Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Till
Thurman Fortenberry
Mrs. Louise F. Cathey
H. H. Fortenberry
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Fortenberry
James Fox
Mr. & Mrs. Everett Cole Jr.
Casey Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans
Samantha W. Gannan
Mr. & Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
Nina Wynette Gatewood
Mrs. Frances Broden
Mr. Steve Lee
Mrs. Candace Gavin and
Mr. Charles Gavin
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons
Mr. & Mrs. W.O. Gosselin
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Kevin Gibson
Pete, Deanna & Ken Kirk
Mrs. Louis Giff
Mr. & Mrs. T.L. Purvis
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Mrs. Keith Ginn
Mrs. Eliza Butler Gooch
Mrs. W.H. Walker
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Howard
H.D. Graham
Mr. H.D. Graham
Mrs. Ruth Granger
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Strong Hope BC
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Mr. & Mrs. Virgil L. Barlow Jr.
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Mrs. W.B. Breckenridge
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Patty Hancock
Mrs. Myra Sadler
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& Linda Plummer
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Siloam Baptist Church
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Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Dear
Myrtle Harrelson
Miss Beatrice Brownlee & Family
Al Hart
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Mrs. A. Heard
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Mrs. Dixie Ingold Hearn
Mrs. Irene L. Brister
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Mrs. Wanda Manney Higdon
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Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hamberlin
Ada Mae Hilderbrand
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Mrs. Ora May S. Green
& Howard Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen
Mrs. Helen Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Kenneth
& Scott
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Dickerson & Bowen
W.E. Blain
W.W. Blain
John Brewer
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Norman G. Stevens Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland Jr.
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Ruth Sunday School, FBC Eupora
Tiffany Miller
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Martha Millis
Mr. Gene Millis
(to be continued)

SBC statistics up in 8 key categories

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists registered gains in eight of 10 key denominational reporting areas in 1992 while posting the first decrease in baptisms in five years.

Increases were registered in number of churches, church membership, ongoing Sunday School enrollment, discipleship training

enrollment/participation, ongoing music ministry enrollment, Brotherhood enrollment/participation, mission expenditures, and total tithes, offerings and special gifts.

Southern Baptist Statistical Summary, 1992-1991

	1992	1991	1992-1991 Change
			Numerical Percent
Churches	38,458	38,221	237 0.6
Baptisms	367,847	396,668	-28,821 -7.3
Church Membership	15,365,486	15,238,283	127,203 0.8
Ongoing Sunday School Enrollment	8,262,521	8,183,801	78,720 1.0
Discipleship Training Enrollment/Participation	2,226,013	2,202,527	23,486 1.1
Ongoing Music Ministry Enrollment	1,886,121	1,875,610	10,511 0.6
Ongoing WMU Enrollment	1,190,908	1,200,713	-9,805 -0.8
Brotherhood Enrollment/Participation	614,366	601,694	12,672 2.1
Total Tithes, Offerings, Special Gifts	\$4,899,015,605	\$4,704,986,720	\$194,028,885 4.1
Mission Expenditures	\$751,773,457	\$732,090,978	\$19,682,479 2.7

Southern Baptist Statistical Summary — Mississippi

1992-1991

	1992	1991	1992-1991 Change
			Numerical Percent
Churches	1,990	1,985	5 0.3
Baptisms	14,717	15,689	(972) -6.2
Church Membership	691,744	684,563	7,181 1.0
Ongoing Sunday School Enrollment	362,178	359,961	2,217 0.6
Discipleship Training Enrollment/Participation	142,369	143,526	(1,157) -0.8
Ongoing Music Ministry Enrollment	106,491	107,243	(752) -0.7
Ongoing WMU Enrollment	61,072	61,243	(171) -0.3
Brotherhood Enrollment/Participation	39,173	38,251	922 2.4
Total Tithes, Offerings, Special Gifts	\$228,259,515	\$217,963,330	\$10,296,185 4.7
Mission Expenditures	\$38,959,088	\$37,656,453	\$1,302,635 3.5

Brotherhood's 1992 voluntarism equals \$67 million to home, foreign missions

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The time and labor of Southern Baptist Brotherhood missions volunteers equaled an estimated \$67.4 million in 1992, according to James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

With 27 state Brotherhood direc-

tors reporting volunteer activity, Williams said there were 75,341 missions volunteers recruited through Brotherhood who participated in 8,905 national and international projects.

The inter-agency Volunteers in Missions Task Force assigns a dol-

lar value to the volunteers' work. The task force estimates that each volunteer spends an average of three days on a project and that the average missionary salary is \$30,000 per year. Applying this formula to the 60,883 Brotherhood missions volunteers reported in non-construction projects, the volunteers' time and labor is valued at about \$24.9 million.

"This \$24.9 figure is the equivalent of about 830 career missionary annual salaries," said Jim Furgerson, Baptist Men's director for the Brotherhood Commission.

In addition, 14,458 Brotherhood construction volunteers accomplished 1,701 mission construction projects, 196 outside the continental United States. Furgerson estimated that 425 of these construction projects were new church buildings.

The state Brotherhood directors also reported projects undertaken by their National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions (NFBM) vocational fellowships, including sports, performing arts, agriculture, business, education, and medical/dental.

Of the 8,905 total projects reported for 1992, 2,054 were overseas and involved 3,918 volunteers.

"This massive response on the part of Baptist men and women is further indication that the missions spirit is very much alive among our people," Williams said. "I see this as a hopeful sign for our future."

His wife is a bargain!

By Jack Riddlehoover

No church ever had a better bargain than a good pastor's wife.

She comes with the pastor when he is called. Without her, most churches would not have called the pastor. She is considered, both directly and indirectly, in the "package."

She stands forever one step behind her pastor-mate in establishing and keeping a warm relationship with the church family.

She keeps the home fires burning for her pastor-mate and their children. This is no small task since she lives in a glass house which most every member watches with keen interest.

She answers the phone, again, and again, and again. She is the pastor's second voice. She listens and listens and listens. She hears criticisms, complaints, affirmations, and compliments. She is expected to remember every comment of every call and relay it to the pastor. Her voice should always be cheery on the phone.

She is often the pastor's visitation companion and helper. If he is not available, she is sometimes expected to take his place in any crisis.

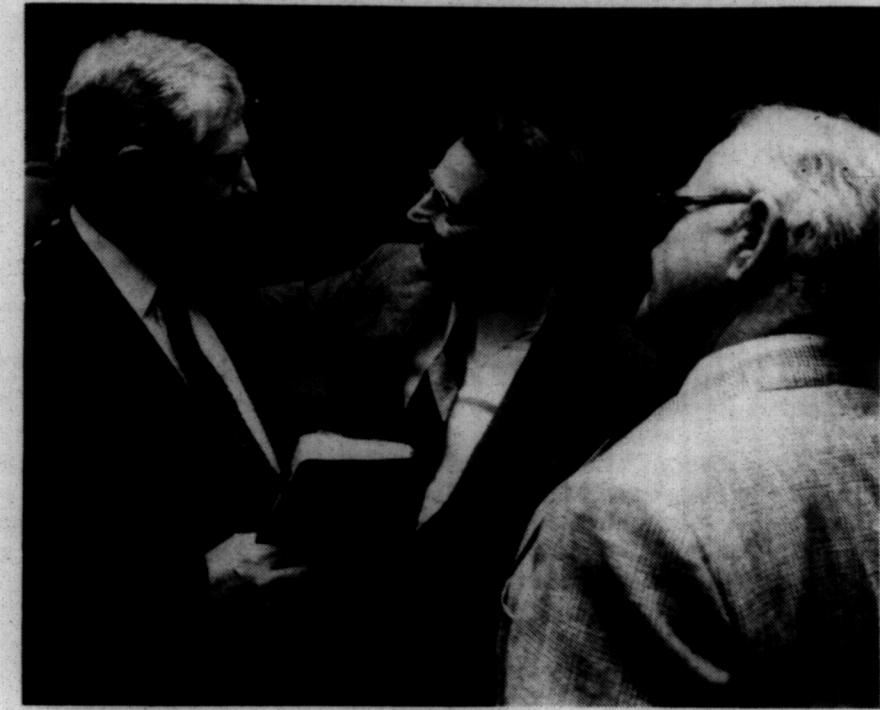
She is a teacher, counselor, leader, mother, wife, housekeeper, chauffeur, example, and burden-bearing friend to her pastor-mate.

She is to always smile, always look attractive, always be where she is supposed to be, when she is supposed to be there, and on time.

All this is to be done just because she is the pastor's wife, without pay, complaint, commendation, or recognition... and with a smile.

God bless you, pastor's wife. You have an impossible task. May God's grace and church member support always be sufficient.

Riddlehoover is retired pastor of Pioneer Drive Church, Abilene, Texas, and directs a mentoring-to-ministers program. Reprinted with permission from the (Texas) BAPTIST STANDARD.



NASHVILLE — Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. (center) greeted Henry Blackaby (left) who spoke on spiritual awakening Feb. 9 to BSSB trustees. Blackaby is co-author of "A Fresh Encounter with God," a joint venture with the Home Mission Board, to be released this summer. Looking on is Roy Miller, recording secretary of the trustee board from Lexington, Tenn. (BP photo by Jim Venemen)

Blackaby:

Christian revival is first step for America's healing

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Too many Christians in America today have such a distant relationship to God they don't recognize that the message, "Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand," is meant for them, the director of spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board told trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board Feb. 9.

"Folks, the healing of America waits on the repentance of God's people," said Henry Blackaby. "If God's people do not return to God, his redemptive purpose comes to a halt."

Noting spiritual awakening in America has not occurred since 1857-58, he said spiritual awakening is always preceded by revival among Christians that begins with prayer among leaders.

"If we will not pray, we will not see a mighty movement of God," said Blackaby, co-author of a series of resources, "A Fresh Encounter with God," scheduled for release this summer. "If we do not pray, we will get what we do not pray for." He said "deep movements of God like I have not seen" are under way in some Southern Baptist churches, particularly in California.

At the same time, in most churches, "we have a spiritual holocaust. It has nothing to do with the number of baptisms. It has to do with the holiness of the people of God. As go the people of God, so goes the winning of the rest of the world."

The tendency of Christians and churches is to depart from God, to substitute things such as money or methods for him, Blackaby said. Too many churches are giving all their emphasis to attracting people to their churches rather than focusing on what takes place when they attend.

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